

September-October 2002
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Inside this Issue

- 1 Director's Notes
- 2 Department Intelligence
- 3 Highlighted Area Events
- 4 County Organization News
- 5 Historical Organizations Committee
- 6 Volunteer Appreciation
- 7 Calendar of Events

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The Placer

A Voice of History

Director's Notes

Jerry Rouillard

The Old Fruitvale School

The landscape of our Placer County historical community changes from time to time, and the October meeting of the Historical Organizations Committee (HOC) gives us a chance to get a first hand look at one of the newest groups in the County. On October 8th, the Fruitvale Hall School Association is hosting the HOC meeting at 3425 Fruitvale Road in the Lincoln area. The meeting starts at 9:00 AM and finishes up at 12:00 PM. It is open to everyone and this one will feature a special presentation by Dr. Lyndell Grey, coordinator of the Old Fruitvale School Project.

This project is particularly interesting, because Dr. Grey has been very successful in linking the

preservation of the Fruitvale School to the agricultural history of the local community. While that might not mean as much in some areas as it does around Lincoln, the Fruitvale group is already taking advantage of this linkage by developing a living history program and showcasing important aspects of the rural lifestyle that once dominated this farming community.

The HOC meetings are open to the public, and I would encourage anyone to attend this one if you want to see how well this new group is doing in their effort to highlight their agricultural heritage. Farming may not be as dominant as it once was, but it is still an important chapter of the Placer County story.♣

Department Intelligence



The Women's Jail

Carmel Barry-Schweyer with help from Bob and Sharon Balmain and Mary Louise O'Neal

The elected officials for the newly established Placer County set up office in the old Sutter County courthouse in Auburn located on the north side of Court Street between Commercial Street and the junction of Nevada, Washington and Main streets in what we now call Old Town. The canvas and wood building held the offices and a log jail was located behind the courthouse. In 1855 a fire swept through town and destroyed the jail, however the courthouse did not burn. Prisoners were moved to El Dorado County until the new jail could be completed.

The Court of Sessions had already ordered a new courthouse and jail that was constructed in October of 1852. It was to be constructed, "agreeable to specifications on file with the Clerk of this Court upon a lot selected and recorded for that purpose in Book A of Preemptive Claims page 90 and that said lot be immediately enclosed with a fence and that notices of receiving proposals be posted according to law."

The 35 by 48 foot, two-story building, would have eight cells in the center of the three foot thick surrounding brick walls. Five-foot walkways between each cell and the perimeter made each cell isolated. All partitions and walls were two feet thick. The cells were 6 ½ feet square. No provisions were made for female prisoners.

In 1873 the Grand Jury recommended to the Board of Supervisor's that proper quarters be made for female prisoners, prisoners of "light crimes" and those awaiting examination on charge of insanity.

In September of 1876 J.C. Bray and a woman who claimed to be his wife stole a buggy from C.C. Crosby's Empire Livery. Caught in Marysville, Sheriff McCormick brought them back to Auburn. The Sheriff put Bray in jail while the woman stayed at the Orleans Hotel until the matter was settled. She said that she was simply following her husband and that he was following the bent of a brain heavily taxed with alcohol. By the turn of the century the issue of where to house women in jail

became an issue. Women had been kept in hotel rooms with a guard, but this was not a satisfactory solution. Twenty-nine women had been held between 1895 and 1904 for crimes ranging from drunk, insane, vagrancy, misdemeanor, and disturbing the peace. *This article will continue in the next issue of The Placer.* ♥

Artifact of the Month

The Mystery Artifact featured in the last article of The Placer was a glass sleeker or slicker. Sleekers are used for stretching, flattening, squeezing out liquids, removing crease and wrinkles, and polishing leather.

In the next issue, there will be a highlighted artifact with a description and history. ♣

FROM ACORNS TO ORCHARDS:

Placer County's Heritage

Melanie Barton

The Department of Museums is pleased to announce our fall community education programs. Entitled ***From Acorns to Orchards***, the sessions will focus on the rich heritage of our county from pre-gold rush to the 20th century. The four classes will be held on consecutive Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 beginning on October 3rd. Guest speakers, demonstrations and/or activities will entertain attendees.

Please note the following schedule and plan on attending one or more session:

October 3, 2002 at the Courthouse

GATHERING ACORNS: The First People of Placer County

October 10, 2002 at the Gold Country Museum

DIGGIN FOR GOLD: The Rush for Gold

October 17, 2002 at the Bernhard Museum

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS: Growing Communities

October 24, 2002 at the Courthouse

HARVESTING DREAMS: Transition to the Twentieth Century

Whether you are a new resident of Placer County or an "Old Timer" you will enjoy these fun filled sessions. Come prepared for an entertaining and educational evening. Questions can be directed to the Department of Museums, [530] 889-6500. ♦

Highlighted Events Here and There

15th Annual Loomis Eggplant Festival

Loomis Chamber of Commerce

Expect something between a Sacramento Jazz Festival and a Barnum & Bailey Circus at this year's Loomis Eggplant Festival. There will be singers, dancers and foot-stomping musicians - entertainment is free and all day September 21.

During its dozen years of operation, the festival has attracted star performers, great chefs and some of the most colorful food, art and craft booths in California.

The festival takes on the color of purple to match its community fruit and the aroma of eggplant dishes from dips, to salads and even frosted cakes.

The local chefs compete against one another in an eggplant cookout that climaxes in national acclaim and big prizes.

Additional entertainment includes the Eggplant Golf Tournament held at Indian Creek Golf Course and Egganapolis 500.

Loomis is the place where the entertainment includes the tasting of eggplant dishes along with the more traditional plates of meats, salads and sandwiches.

This festival provides the opportunity to find out why eggplant has been the dish of choice by Chinese Emperors since 600 b.c. and is still popular throughout the Mediterranean nations.

Don Tramel of Jimboy's Tacos in Loomis organizes our Classic Car Show. Over 70 classic cars from Northern California and Nevada participated in last year's event.

Trophies were awarded in various categories, including the top prize for the Best Purple Car. If you would like to enter, please call Don Tramel at (916) 652-5433 or the Chamber office at (916) 652-7252. ♠

Maidu Interpretive Center Invites you to Celebrate Native Foods

Saturday, October 5, 2002 from 10:00am-1:00 pm, the Maidu Interpretive Center in Roseville invites you to sample native foods, and learn to identify them and prepare them using Old Ways cooking techniques.

Instructor: David Self
Fee: \$15/person.
Class # 10262

Location: Maidu Interpretive Center (Native American Museum & Learning Center) 1960 Johnson Ranch Drive, Roseville, California 95661

For more information and registration call the **Maidu Interpretive Center (916) 772-4242.S**

Upcoming Events

September 18

5:30 to 7:30, Rocklin Museum
Chamber of Commerce Mixer and Grand Opening Dedication of the Rocklin Museum

September 21

8:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.,
Downtown Streets
Auburn's Black & White Ball

Auburn Chamber of Commerce Fundraiser Bands, Entertainment, Food & Fun \$45 advance, \$55 at gate. Contact (530) 885-5616 -

www.auburnsbwball.com

September 21 & 22

Royer Park Roseville
One Root Festival

Music, Vendors, Family Fun. Contact: (916) 772-2557 www.oneroot.org

October 27

2 pm, South Grove and Kannasto St., Rocklin
2nd Annual Rocklin Historical Society Halloween Cemetery Tour
Conducted by renowned psychic Nancy Matz. For Information call Kathy Nippert at (916) 630-9073. \$10 donation.

Placer County Historical Organization News



Placer County Historical Society's President's Message

George Lay

One of our board of directors passed away in August. I would like to acknowledge the loss of Norman L. Wilson. His achievements were many including a former state archaeologist and renowned Indian and Gold Rush expert. But to the society he was bigger than life behind the scenes.

His vast knowledge and contributions will be sorely missed. Whenever I needed some assistance for local history I could always stop by his family home on Russell Road on the outskirts of Auburn which was like visiting a museum and he along with his life partner, Arlean Towne would give me their un-devoted attention. Norman now will take his place with other great historians and his works will live on and continue to benefit all of us. Thank you Norman. ♥

Placer County Historical Society Dinner Meeting

Addah Owens

When: October 3, 2002

Time: 6:30 pm, Dinner, 7:30 Program

Where: Veteran's Memorial Hall, 100 East Street, Auburn, CA

Cost: \$12.00

Menu: Chinese Dinner by Richard Yue

Mail Check to: PCHS, c/o Betty Samson, 8780 Baxter Grade Road, Auburn, CA 95603

Program: Ken Fletcher and Jim Mulligan from the Colfax Historical Society will present a program: The Work of Grace Hubley Jones, early photographer from Colfax and Sacramento.

Grace Hubley Jones grew up in Colfax and started photographing with glass plate negatives in the early 1890s. She moved to San Francisco about 1900 in order to take photography classes. She entered photography contests and won a number of prizes. The San Francisco earthquake of 1906 ruined her studio and impressive collection of glass negatives. By 1906 she started to gain recognition as a portrait photographer in Sacramento, and often made trips back home to Colfax making planned stops in Auburn.

10,000 of her glass plates were found about ten years ago in an old storage shed in Colfax. Since then, Gertrude Paul, and later the Colfax Historical Society, made prints from these glass plates. They have also been conserving and restoring a few of the original prints. They will be on display at the meeting by members of the Photo Archives of the Colfax Historical Society. An informative talk will be presented about the artist and the processes involved in producing the prints. ♦

Placer County Historical Society New Members

Barbara Burdick,
Membership Chair

I would like to welcome the following new members to the Placer County Historical Society:

Tom Clingenpeel, Auburn
Marti Fischer, Auburn
James Sweat, Auburn
Mark Perry, Auburn
Robert Nelson, Loomis
Albert and Roxanne Brethour, Cool
Dan Johnson, Auburn
Hugh Ewart, Auburn ♦

Placer County Historical Organizations

Roseville Historical Society
Dean Moore, 773-3003
557 Lincoln St.
Roseville, CA 95678
www.rosevillehistorical.org

Forest Hill Divide Historical
Society
Gerda Percival, 367-2366
PO Box 646
Foresthill, CA 95631-0646
www.foresthillhistory.org

Lincoln Highway Association
www.lincolnhighwayassoc.com

Colfax Area Historical Society
Helen Wayland, 346-7040
PO Box 185
Colfax, CA 95713-0185
www.foothill.net/colfax/history

Maidu Interpretive Center
Kristie Stevens Bungard, 916-
772-4242
1960 Johnson Ranch Drive
Roseville, CA 95661
www.micf.net

Placer County Historical Society
George Lay, 878-1927
PO Box 5643
Auburn, CA 95604
www.placercountyhistoricalsociety.org

Rocklin Historical Society
Ted Bravos, 916-624-5404
PO Box 752
Rocklin, CA 95677-0752
www.rocklinhistory.org

Golden Drift Historical Society
Doug Ferrier, 389-2617
PO Box 20
Dutch Flat, CA 95714-0020

Loomis Basin Historical Society
Alice Barnes, 916-652-7844
PO Box 2195
Loomis, CA 95659-2195

Friends of Griffith Quarry
Shirley Patocka, 916-663-3681
PO Box 326
Penryn, CA 95663-0326

Roseville Genealogical Society
Marilyn Larson, 916-771-8435
PO Box 459
Roseville, CA 95678-0459
www.pcgenes.com

Joss House Museum
885-9446
200 Sacramento St.
Auburn, CA 95604

Fruitvale Hall School
Association
3425 Fruitvale Road
Lincoln, CA 95648♠